

ORIGIN/ACTION

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
s/s	s/jm	o/FSI
10	1	1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	20	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
24		3
		150
		6

Pas 21

SEP 10 PM 12 40

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AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

17

A-232

NO.

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TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: GUATEMALA (2) DATE 11/20/69

 REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE 08/27/69
 PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: 8 September 1969

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents, August 1969

REF :

 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
 SEP 12 1969

1. During August, for the first time in this series of reports covering the last two and one half years, the Embassy tally dropped below 20 politically motivated violent incidents. The decline, which has continued for three consecutive months, occurred in all regions with the exception of an increase of two in the Highlands Region at Quiche.
2. Near the main plaza in the Indian town of Quiche, an Army patrol challenged a suspicious group of youths. After a chase, two men committed suicide rather than face capture. Security forces described them as FAR terrorists.
3. The hand grenade detonation that almost took the life of PR journalist Irma Flaquer as she was driving home on August 7, still packs explosive political potential. Flaquer miraculously escaped death and recovered sufficiently to appear at the PR's 12th Anniversary celebration August 28. PR politicians and the general public instinctively blamed some Rightist hothead for the cowardly attack that deeply offended the macho spirit. Both the FAR and the EGT/FAR printed special bulletins denying responsibility. The PR newspaper advertisements all but specifically blaming the PLN. Stung PLN politicians then accused the PR of consorting with subversives. The bitter exchange continued for days. The incident has finally been allowed to lie dormant temporarily.

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Drafted by: POL:DFclare:mmb:9/8/69

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:DFszullo

Clearances: POL-I:FS:Va

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GUATEMALA A-

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4. Probably in reaction to the hair-trigger tempers the Flaquer bombing revealed, new Minister of Government Col. Francisco SOSA Avila called all three presidential candidates in to discuss jointly the problem of violence in the electoral campaign. Only Arana (and a human wall of bodyguards) initially appeared to hear Sosa tell him that in the future the Government would stringently enforce a program of "Depistolization" for everyone not holding a valid license signed by the Minister of Defense. Arana, and in subsequent separate sessions Caballeros and Fuentes Pieruccini, promised to urge support for tranquility, constitutionality in general and the gun control in particular. Subsequently, Col. Sosa set up numerous roadblocks where troops, National Police and Customs guards conducted vehicle searches. One rumored catch: a submachine gun found in the car of the son of ex-Minister of Defense Rafael ARRIAGA Bosque. In spite of the boy's remonstrations, the weapon was confiscated.

5. Although the insurgent groups apparently decided to lie low during the month, fund raising ventures continue. On August 13, for example, wealthy industrialist Alberto HABBIE Mishaan disappeared. Ten days later he was released unharmed, claiming to have been abducted by the FAR. The family refused to cooperate with the police and denied having doled out any ransom, but rumors circulated that they paid between \$50,000-200,000. The FAR denied involvement and stated they would deal with those who used the FAR initials for their own ends (i.e., the PGT/FAR.) [REDACTED] 13/

6. Leaders of the PR-oriented labor confederation CONTRAGUA believe that the man who accidentally died when the bomb he was placing in their offices in Mazatenango exploded prematurely on August 20 was hired by the Mano Blanca. [REDACTED] 21/

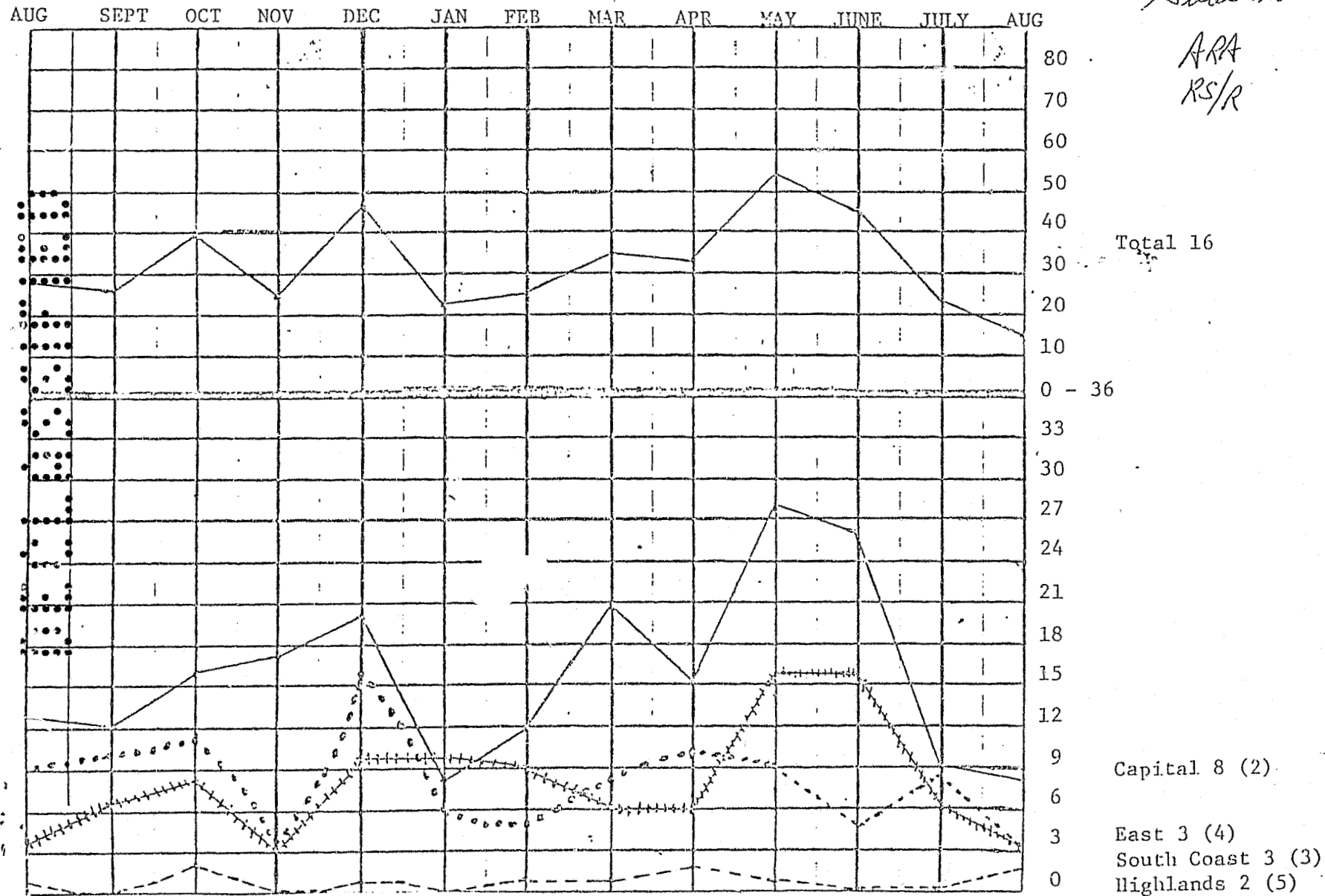
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CONFIDENTIAL (1)
MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
AUGUST 1968 - AUGUST 1969

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Guatemala



- (1) For purposes of this graph both acts of violence includes shootings, bombings, etc., and assassinated bodies
- (2) Capital Area: Sacatepequez, Guatemala
- (3) South Coast: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
- (4) Eastern Region: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal
- (5) Highlands: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Solola